Bristol, April 2nd 1847
Good Friday

My dear Mr. May,

I am only able to make you a dry acknowledgment of your instructive & acceptable letter sent by the Mail steamer that left Boston on the 1st of last month: (date Feb. 26)

During the last week I have been more than usually engaged, and tho' continually determining to give up every thing of the nature of public engagement, (as I am doing with regard to professional ones, — a privilege which at 61 I feel entitled to,) I find an almost constant accumulation of objects to engage my attention.

On Tuesday 30th ult. I went to London on purpose to attend the funeral service to Fred. Douglass, previously to his de-

fortune which was a most satisfactory one: I went expecting to listen unobserved, & almost unknown spectator of the scene, but was most unexpectedly called upon to move the principal Resolution.

F.D. came to my room yesterday & at night attended a large anti slavery meeting of about 1000 people, when he made his last speech in England, and certainly his address was a very perfect one of its kind. You can hardly imagine the satisfaction he gives. There was probably not an individual in that large assembly who was not delighted with his harangue of 2 1/4 hours; and to shake hands with him, seemed to be felt an honour by the hundreds who crowded round him to enjoy the privilege. I was obliged to propose the Resolution for this meeting, & it is to take a

more prominent and forward than I am accustomed to take ~~in the meeting~~ on such occasions. It is well that I had made this pre-paration (tho' I did not understand it) as the gentleman on whom the task devolved, had come to the meeting without having got anything ready. The cordial & unanimous adoption of the Resolutions was very imposing, & Douglass seems much pleased with the wording of them. I deli-cately suggested a collection at the door, as an admittance was very low, the idea was taken up, & I think the result of the meeting will not be less than £20 for our friend.

I have watched Mr. Di carefully since he has been in England, & consider it a most creditable one to him. He might have made a good deal of money, & not dishonestly, had he paid more attention to pecuniary matters. But he has I believe, entirely to contd

to the liberality & management of his friends, only asking for his expenses & really endeavors to afford "travelling expenses". The numerous friends he has made are most enthusiastic in the regard for him & I doubt not he has been many presents made him. His tact, observation, discrimination, & application to self-improvement of all available sources of information, are most striking. I have not been upon terms of great intimacy with him, his character, I fancy, rather a reserved one. but I think he has felt increasing confidence in me. My friend R. D. Webb & Douglass did not accord well — I doubt if either could enter thoroughly into the mind of the other. R. D. W. is a warm hearted, great spirited Irishman, more noble I think than his countrymen generally are, but more autocratic & bearing impatiences than is common to the sect with among whom he was brought up, — Quakers. Of Douglass I must say that in manner and deportment

has tended only to raise my estimate of his heart & moral sentiments, as well as of his gifted understanding.

I cannot but think he will have sometimes to pay thro' on his return, & I should be curious to know what effect his visit to England, & his return to America will have on his character?

No foreign Prince visiting this country feted & courted as these ~~character~~ persons are in the higher circles of England, could meet with a tenth part of the petting & really affectionate attentions that have been lavished upon Douglas. I have been particularly struck with the propriety of his manner especially towards young, - (I would rather say unmarried) ladies, some of whom I think, ~~have been~~ have not on every occasion restrained their favorable opinion within the bounds of ~~the reasonable~~ ordinary esteem & regard. If Douglas goes back not a little spoiled, he will perhaps welcome more cordiale in

addition to those for which I give him credit.

Douglas's adhesion to the League, and his constant vindication of the Garrison, have done him great honor.

Long ago I believe I cautioned you not to think great things of the League. Douglas will tell you how far I judged correctly. Mr. F. D. left me this morning for Liverpool, & I must now say good bye to him in my letter, or it will be too late for him to hear. ~~Take~~ it to morrow at Liv.

Mrs. Chapman's funeral came only a few days ago. I gave Geo. Thompson his Liberty Bell, & Lt. D. Murray in London

The account of the Fair is just what I desired; & will be most usefully employed.

I hope the Democrats have long since

found her way to Boston. Until I have some letter from you, I shall not think of returning my ~~[illegible]~~ "Brief Notice".

Your last letter is on its wonder, & I cannot refer to its contents for which I am sorry

The letter is found safe, but I have only to repeat my thanks for its varied contents.

Jas. Baker has published the first Vol. of his "Library", which is an Am. Work — I hear, that Mr. Ashland is writing a critique upon it which will hurt the sale of the work.

May C. Reformer —

I wished to have sent you a copy of that mystic Rosicrucian, but have not time. My daughter joins in kind regards to you & your family, & I am Yours

Most truly J. B. Collins

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 2, p. 45